

The State Grant Exchange



First Quarter Fiscal Year 1997

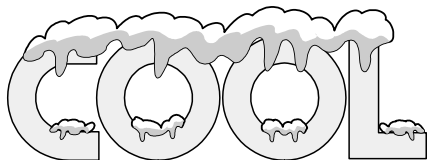
Providing Health and Safety Training to the Nation's Miners - - The Right Thing to do!!!



Historically, the most deadly coal mine explosions have occurred during the months October through March. The Mine Safety and Health Administration's (MSHA) annual Winter Alert Program is where we begin.

The coal mining industry enthusiastically participated and assisted in conducting the 1995-1996 program, the success of which is demonstrated by its results--no miner was hurt or killed in an underground coal mine explosion. Our goal is to repeat this success.

MSHA will solicit the assistance of the mining community in calling attention to hazards that colder weather brings to the underground mining environment. All coal mines contain methane. When the barometer falls during colder weather, more of that methane migrates into mine air than normal. Pockets of the explosive gas may accumulate in areas where methane tests are infrequent.



The inevitable barometric pressure changes and drying out process in the mines can increase the flow of methane, since the atmospheric moisture content

that acts as an impediment to methane flow is diminished. Also under these conditions, coal dust can be more easily suspended and ignited in a dry mine atmosphere, and therefore increase the potential for deadly explosions. Explosions can be prevented when the key lines of defense are employed:

Key Lines of Defense

always follow the mine's approved ventilation plan and ensure that ALL ventilation controls are working properly;

conduct thorough pre-shift, and weekly mine examinations for hazards;

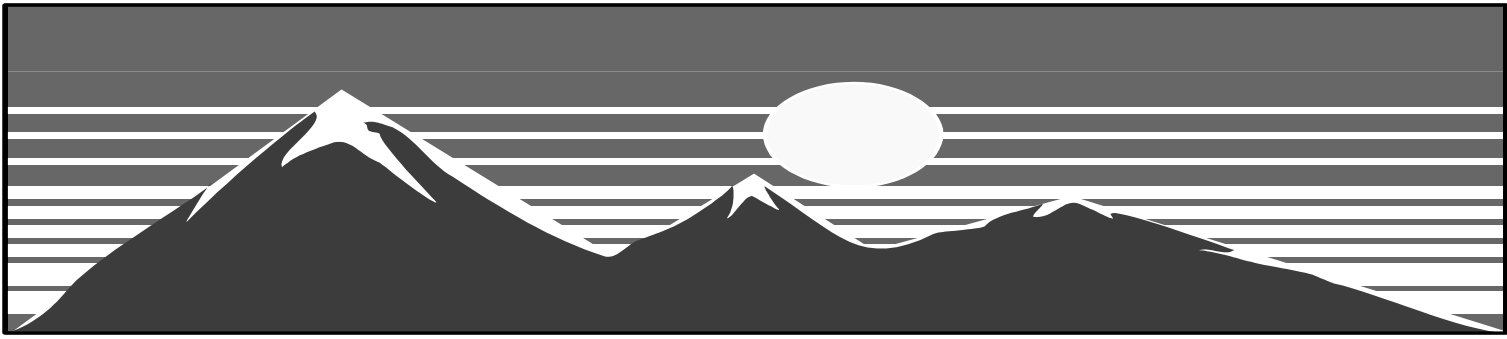
keep potential ignition sources out of face areas;

thoroughly rockdust all areas of the mine; and

conduct a thorough search program to prevent smoking materials from entering the mine.

MSHA will continue the campaign with additional safety messages throughout the winter season.

*Mine Safety and Health
Administration*



What's New In The Rockies

There are other things happening in Colorado besides the bombing trials and the Avalanche drinking from the Stanley Cup. The Colorado Mine Safety and Training Program is hiring a new Mine Safety Trainer/Mine Rescue Coordinator, preparing to co-sponsor the inaugural Western Mine Safety Instructors Conference, bidding contracts to produce 3 new mine safety videos and conducting mine escape and miner heart monitor surveys at underground coal mines in Colorado.

As many of you know, due to the retirement of Joe Nugent, Mine Rescue Coordinator with our program, we have begun the process of filling this position. We have modified the position so that the primary duty will be Part 48 education and training while still coordinating mine rescue training for State-supported teams in Colorado. While we miss Joe, we are looking forward to expanding our education and training efforts in 1997 with our new trainer.

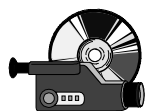
The first Western Mine Safety Instructors Conference is tentatively scheduled for early May, 1997 in Denver. The Conference will be a one-day session held the day before the Western Mine Safety and Health Workshop sponsored by the Colorado Safety Association, Colorado Mining Association and the Colorado Division of Minerals and Geology. As co-sponsors, we believe the addition of the Safety Instructors Conference will provide a broader, more rounded program for mine safety instructors, trainers, consultants, mine operators and government officials. We envision the Conference as a new western venue for disseminating information and innovative training ideas to safety trainers and instructors and enhancing sharing and cooperation between states, mine operators, safety trainers, community colleges and government agencies. If you need further information or know of some excellent speakers, please contact Bill York-Feirn at (303)-866-3567 or on INTERNET at bill.york-feirn@state.co.us.

We are in the process of securing a contractor to produce three new safety videos which will be funded with State, OSM and MSHA funds. After extensive polling of the coal, metal and sand and gravel mining industries in Colorado, we are down to a choice between three subjects; Safety Hazards at Wet Plants and Crusher Plants, Ground Control Safety, and Electrical Hazards Recognition. We hope to make the final decision on subjects and secure a contractor by early December. These new safety films, like the seven films we list in the MSHA training materials catalogue, will be available for the cost of reproduction and mailing the film. If you are interested in purchasing safety videos, please contact Shirley Just at (303)-866-3567.

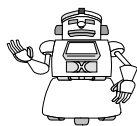
Lastly, with MSHA and State funds we are conducting a number of mine escape and heart monitor surveys of miners from underground coal mines in Colorado. The goal is to determine the oxygen demand of a miner while completing an emergency exit of the mine. This program has been very popular with the mining industry. With this information, operators have a greater awareness of what it feels like to don an SCSR unit and escape the mine by different routes and they gain a greater ability to plan the location, number and types of SCSR units in the mine. This information is collected, copied and sent to MSHA Technical Support in Pittsburgh as part of a national study. We look forward to conducting additional surveys in 1997.

Have a Great Holiday Season and a Prosperous New Year!
Go Avs!

***Bill York-Feirn
State of Colorado***



First Annual Training Materials Contest Winners



The Mine Safety and Health Administration invited miner training instructors to enter a training materials competition. The competition was judged by a panel of three with no connection to the entrants. The judges studied the entries and selected nine individual winners and the grand prize winner.

Winners in the 9 categories and the grand prize winner received plaques with certificates. All the entries received certificates for participation. Ten plaques will be mounted on the wall at the National Mine Academy in Beckley, West Virginia, where the winners names will be engraved on the plaque each year. The grand prize winner will receive a traveling trophy. Each grand prize winner's name will be engraved on the trophy. The winner will retain the trophy until the next year's competition.

The following were winners in this year's competition:

Academia

Coal:

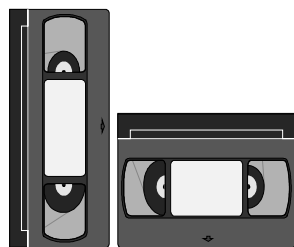
Pennsylvania State University
(*Harvey Roles III, training video*)

Metal/Nonmetal:

Pennsylvania State University
(*Harvey Roles I, training video*)

General:

Pennsylvania State University
(*Foreman's Handbook*)



State

Coal:

Commonwealth of Virginia
(*Hazard Alert-Live Tomorrow*)

Metal/Nonmetal:

State of New York
(*Back Facts*)

General:

State of Illinois
(*Degraded Image Hazard Recognition*)



Industry

Coal:

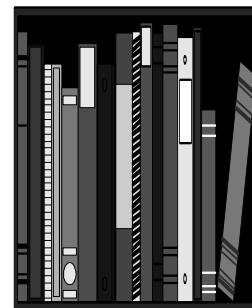
Vigo Coal Company
(*Refresher Training Exercise*)

Metal/Nonmetal:

Rohrer's Quarry Inc.
(*That Will Never Happen to Me*)

General:

Pryce Parker
(*Effective Communication*)



Grand Prize Winner



Pennsylvania State University

Grantees Home Page INTERNET

The State Grants Program Office is soliciting states with INTERNET home pages. The Office would like to link the home page to the MSHA State Grants Program home page listing for the grantees under the MSHA Home Page. The link will connect to the state's health and safety training programs.

If you submit a home page, please make sure that it is health and safety training related or grant related. Some states are linked to state, industry, or university home pages and are a sub-portion of an home page. The link would be for the portion related to state grants. This will enhance communications with the states and MSHA and provide the State Grants Program with an advertising tool to be utilized on the information super-highway by the mining industry and other interested organizations.

Again, make sure the home page is state grant related before submitting. If you have any questions, please contact Greg Graham on (703) 235-1400 or email ggraham@msha.gov. This subject will be addressed at the State Grants Business Meeting in April.

Greg Graham
State Grants Program Office



Seasons Greetings and Happy Holidays



State Grants Note Pad

February 19-21, 1997

**Joint Mine Safety and Health Conference
Sheraton Uptown Albuquerque Hotel
For Information contact:
Texas Mine Safety and Health Program
(512) 471-4633 or (800) 687-7345**

March 2-4, 1997

**1997 Southeastern MSHA Instructors' Conference
Grand Casino Hotel Biloxi Mississippi
For Information contact:
David Wickens, Mississippi Office of Geology
(601) 961-5512**

March 19-21, 1997

**National Conference to Eliminate Silicosis
Sponsored by
MSHA, OSHA, NIOSH
and
the American Lung Association
Mayflower Hotel Washington, DC
For Information contact:
Donna Green
(703) 235-2625**



They will be Missed

The State Grants Program Office would like to express sympathy to the families of Desi Apodaca of the New Mexico and Jim Ryan formerly of the New York Department of Labor, State Grant Programs. These two men were valuable assets to their respective grant programs for a number of years and will be missed.



Desi was an former MSHA employee who went to the State of New Mexico to run the grants program. Desi died of an heart attack on October 9, 1996, in Phoenix, Arizona while attending a safety conference.

Jim Ryan worked for the New York Department of Labor for 25 years and retired in 1989. Jim died from cancer on October 9, 1996, in Plattsburgh, New York hospital.

New Mexico Tech has established a scholarship fund in honor of Desi Apodaca and the New Mexico Sixth Annual, State Mine Inspector's Conference will be dedicated to Desi's memory.



The State Grants Program Office

Grant Manager's Corner

Reminder! This is a reminder that the State Grants Quarterly Technical and Financial Reports for the fourth quarter of fiscal year 1996 were due on October 31, 1996. If you have not submitted your reports, please do so immediately. These reports can be submitted electronically or by hard copy in the mail.

Hopefully, all states have returned their signed grant applications for processing of grant funds. If your program has not returned a signed application, please do so as soon as possible. The Agency cannot allocate funds without your state's signed grant applications.

*James Baugher
State Grants Manager*

Remember, if you would like to submit an article or upcoming event in the Exchange, contact Greg Graham on (703) 235-1400.